

## Message Text

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ACTION HEW-08

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

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DEPT PASS TO DHEW/PHS; NIH

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, IN, PK

SUBJ: MALARIA INCIDENCE IN INDIA

REFS: A. ISLAMABAD 10817 DATED 12/13/73; B. ISLAMABAD 4285

1. SORRY INITIAL INQUIRY REFTTEL A WAS NOT ANSWERED.
2. THE NATIONAL MALARIA ERADICATION PROGRAM IN INDIA HAS SUFFERED A SERIOUS SETBACK IN PAST THREE YEARS WITH RESULT OF ALARMING RESURGENCE OF MALARIA IN NORTH AND CENTRAL INDIA. DELHI REPORTED ABOUT 3500 CASES 1973 AND 1972, AND 3800 CASES IN 1971. THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE HUNDREDS TREATED PRIVATELY AND NOT REPORTED. THESE FIGURES ARE PHENOMENALLY HIGH COMPARED TO PRE-1970 ONES. FOR INSTANCE, IN 1965 DURING HEIGHT OF NMEP, ON 7 POSITIVE CASES WERE REPORTED IN DELHI, 14 CASES IN 1966, AND 37 CASES IN 1967. THIS RATE HAS STEADILY INCREASED.

3. OFFICIAL FIGURES OF NMEP FOR INDIA SHOW THAT THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 1.5 MILLION CASES IN 1973 AND 1.4 MILLION CASES IN 1972. THE HARDEST HIT STATES WERE GUJARAT, ABOUT 448,000

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CASES IN 1973; MADHYA PRADESH, 141,000 IN 1973; PUNJAB,

137,000; AND RAJASTHAN, 118,000. MAHARASHTRA FIGURES AS FOLLOWS : 200,000 CASES IN 1971 (BOMBAY 491), 205,000 IN 1972 (BOMBAY 559), 156,000 IN 1973 (BOMBAY 625), 2,362 DURING JANUARY 1 TO MARCH 31, 1974 (BOMBAY 124). BY COMPARISON, IN MID-60'S MALARIA HAD BEEN CLOSE TO ERADICATION (150,000 CASES) AFTER MASSIVE EFFORT BEGINNING IN EARLY 50'S AT WHICH TIME CASES WERE AS HIGH AS 75 MILLION.

4. VARIOUS FACTORS SEEM TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR RESURGENCE OF MALARIA. IN SOME AREAS MOSQUITOES HAVE APPARENTLY BECOME RESISTANT TO DDT. SOME MALATHION IS BEING USED. GENERAL LOSS OF NATIONAL PRIORITY FOR THE PROGRAM IS ANOTHER FACTOR, RESULTING IN LOW LEVELS OF PERFORMANCE, STAFF ATTRITION AND FAILURE TO TRAIN REPLACEMENTS, LATE DELIVERY OF CHEMICALS, AND DROP IN RESEARCH. IN GOI SYSTEM, STATE GOVERNMENTS HAVE MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTING PROGRAM. NMEP PEOPLE FEEL STATE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM HAS BEEN NEGLIGENT. ALSO, IT IS CLAIMED, MEASURES ESSENTIALLY THE SPRAYING OF MALARIA LARVICIDAL OIL ARE POORLY ORGANIZED BY STATES. ANOTHER REASON GIVEN FOR LARGE INCIDENCE OF MALARIA IN URBAN AREAS IS THAT THE MOSQUITOE BREEDING GROUNDS HAVE INCREASED THROUGHOUT LARGER CITIES. FINALLY, THE LACK OF MASS BLOOD TESTS AND TREATMENT OF POSITIVE CASES IN VULNERABLE AREAS HAS HURT THE CONTROL PROGRAM.

5. WE ARE POUCHING TODAY THE NMED STATE-WIDE DISTRIBUTION LIST OF POSITIVE CASES OF MALARIA FOR 1972-73 AND JANUARY 1974.  
SCHNEIDER

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